

Hamilton Field, Exchange Maintenance Shop
(Facility No. 402)
2nd Street between Escolta and Hangar Avenues
Novato
Marin County
California

HABS No. CA-2398-0

HABS
CAL
21-NOVA,
10-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
San Francisco, California

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

**HAMILTON FIELD
Exchange Maintenance Shop
(Facility No. 402)**

HABS
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HABS No. CA-2398-O

Location: Hamilton Army Air Field
Novato, Marin County, California
Exchange Maintenance Shop
Facility No. 402 (Second Street between Escolta and Hangar Avenues)

U.S.G.S.: Novato, CA. Quadrangle (7.5' series), 1954 (revised 1980)
Petaluma Point, CA. Quadrangle (7.5' series), 1959 (revised 1980)
UTM Coordinates: Zone 10; A: 542100/4213620; B: 544720/4212220;
C: 542760/4210650; D: 541040/4212600

Significance:

This temporary building served as a maintenance facility for the base exchange operations during and after World War II. Building 402 is considered significant for its association with Air Force history in northern California, and with World War II actions in the Pacific Theater.

See narrative for Hamilton Field (HABS No. CA-2398) for a comprehensive Statement of Significance and individual report HABS No. CA-2398-A for a condensed Statement of Significance.

Description:

Built in 1941, this utilitarian temporary building is a frame structure sided and roofed with corrugated metal. Originally the frame walls were sheathed with galvanized iron sheets. It has a low-pitched front gable roof with exposed rafters and composition paper covering. Fenestration consists of two- over two-light sash double hung windows covered with metal bars on the gable ends. The building is elevated on concrete piers and has a wood floor covered with linoleum. A modern addition protrudes 6.7 feet from the building and is on a wood dock attached to one end of the shop.

The interior consists of a large room with a small office on the northwest side of the building. The office has knotty pine walls and a linoleum floor. Ceilings are exposed roof beams with knee braces. A bathroom is adjacent to the office and contains a cast iron wall-mounted sink, and a Standard brand flush valve toilet and wall-mounted urinal. A Haws drinking fountain, made in Berkeley, is present near the office and is made of enameled cast iron. The original lights consisted of single exposed incandescent bulbs with a ceramic canopy mounted on ceiling beams and wired through exposed conduits. These have been replaced in places with suspended metal-hooded two-tube fluorescent fixtures. There is no

**HAMILTON FIELD
Exchange Maintenance Shop
(Facility No. 402)**

HABS No. CA-2398-O Page 2

heating system in the building at this time, but it probably was heated with a freestanding gas heater, similar to other buildings on base.

Historical Context:

See narrative for Hamilton Field (HABS No. CA-2398) and Section B in report HABS No. CA-2398-F.

Construction on the shop was completed in March 1941 for a cost of \$3,000.00. Originally built as an exchange maintenance shop, it was also used as a lumber packing and storage shed (1942), an administrative office (1944), and again as an exchange maintenance shop (1966). It remained in use until base closure in 1974, when ownership reverted to the General Services Administration. It is currently included in an excess property sale.

Sources:

See narrative for Hamilton Field (HABS No. CA-2398) and Section B in report HABS No. CA-2398-F.

The line drawn sketches were drafted on site in 1994 by Keith Syda, scanned into a computer and drawn by Christopher MacDonald in 1995, and corrected and finalized by Claire Warshaw in 1996 (all PAR Environmental Services, Inc. staff).

Project Information:

Hamilton Army Air Field is owned by various federal entities including the Department of the Navy, Department of the Army, United States Coast Guard, and General Services Administration (GSA). The Army/GSA parcels are being excessed and sold to private developers. The Navy property is included in Base Closure and Realignment actions.

As part of the Army's undertaking, it has been determined in consultation with the California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) that the excess sale will have an affect on properties at the air field, and that these properties are components of a district that is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Based on consultation with the OHP and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, pursuant to 36 CFR part 800, regulations implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470f), a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was entered into by the interested parties in March 1994. The agreement stipulated that prior to excess sale the Army must contact the HABS/HAER division at the Western Regional Office of the National Park Service, San Francisco, California, to determine the appropriate level and kind of recordation for the subject properties. The MOA further stipulated that copies of the documentation be made available to the OHP and

**HAMILTON FIELD
Exchange Maintenance Shop
(Facility No. 402)**

HABS No. CA-2398-O Page 3

appropriate local archives designated by the OHP. This recordation has been prepared in order to meet those stipulations.

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Date prepared: July 1995

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